

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-19 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. The amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of the claim.

Claims 13-19, which had been withdrawn from consideration on the basis of an election, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner is requested to enter this Amendment because it does not require any additional searching and it places the Application in better condition for appeal.

35 U.S.C. 5102/103 Rejections

Claims 1-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nagamoto et al (6,139,953). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The composite film of the claimed invention comprises a polymer blend (polymer mixture) containing a urethane polymer and a vinyl polymer as effective components. However, the base sheet of Nagamoto et al. has a radiation-cured material prepared by curing a mixture of a urethane acrylate oligomer and a reactive dilute monomer. Hence, the base sheet of Nagamoto et al., which comprises a graft copolymer of a urethane polymer and a polymer consisting of reactive dilute monomers, has a completely different structure from that of the composite film of the claimed invention.

The pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet of the claimed invention has a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on a support. For example purposes only, see Fig. 2A. In Fig. 2A, the support includes, for example, a multi-layer sheet composed of a laminate of the composite film and a film ("a first film") made of a material different from that of the composite film. The composite film is formed by using a polymer blend containing a urethane polymer and a vinyl polymer as effective components.

On the other hand, in Nagamoto et al, the adhesive tape 1 has an adhesive layer 3

laminated on the base sheet 2 as shown in Fig. 3. The base sheet is a single layer. Nagamoto et al. does not teach that the base sheet is laminated on another sheet, such as the first film in the claimed invention.

In example 1 in Nagamoto et al., the liquid resin prepared by mixing a urethane acrylate oligomer and a reactive dilute monomer was applied on a PET film by means of a fountain die technique to make a resin layer of 100 μm in thickness and subsequently cured by irradiating the liquid resin, and consequently, a base sheet was obtained. However, the PET film is only used temporarily to make a resin layer in the means of a fountain die technique and is removed after the resin layer has been made. Therefore, the base sheet obtained in Example 1 is a single layer. It is well known to those skilled in the art that a material member such as a plastic film is needed to form a film by irradiating a liquid uncured mixture including a reactive dilute monomer and the material member may be removed after the film was formed.

In addition, in Nagamoto et al, each resin layer obtained in Comparative Examples 1-2 is 100 μm in thickness and each resin layer obtained in Examples 1-3 is 100 μm in thickness exclusive of PET film of 38 μm in thickness. Based on these Examples, it appears that the PET film was removed after a base sheet has been formed.

Finally, Nagamoto et al. does not teach a multi-layer sheet such as a support in the claimed invention.

Double Patenting

The Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-8 and 10 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of copending application 11/038,147.

Applicants are filing a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to this rejection. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 10/625,527

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

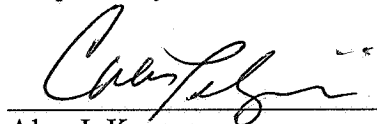

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